

RULES OF THE ROAD AND VEHICLE SAFETY:

This article summarizes the rules of the road and the basics of traffic safety. An understanding of these rules will be necessary to obtain an operator license in Indiana.

CHAPTER A

BASIC TRAFFIC SIGNS: Drivers need to be able to read and understand various signs posted along Indiana roadways. These signs, posted by the Indiana Department of Transportation and local governments, use colors, shapes, written messages and symbols that aid the driver in reading and understanding the information.

1. **Sign Colors:** The background color of traffic signs helps identify the type of information provided:



a. **Red:** Red signs are used to inform the driver of requirements that must be followed and that constitute an immediate threat to traffic safety if not followed, e.g. “STOP,” “YIELD,” “DO NOT ENTER,” “WRONG WAY.”



b. **Yellow:** Yellow signs warn drivers of specific road conditions and dangers ahead.



c. **White:** White signs provide important information regarding traffic regulations that you must obey such as state highway markers, maximum speed limits and other helpful information.



d. **Orange:** Orange signs warn drivers of special dangers ahead due to highway construction and maintenance projects.



e. **Green:** Green signs indicate directions, highway “exit” signs, and mileage signs.



f. **Blue:** Blue signs impart traveler information to motorists.



g. **Brown:** Brown signs indicate nearby parks and recreational areas.

2. **Sign Shapes:** The shape of a sign also gives an indication of the information. There are eight (8) common shapes used:

a. **Octagonal ("STOP") Sign:** The eight-sided red "stop" sign is a common sign indicating the requirement to stop and yield the right-of-way at an intersection.



b. **Triangular ("YIELD") Sign:** The three-sided red "yield" sign informs the driver approaching an intersection that he or she may be required to stop and yield the right-of-way to all traffic and pedestrians before proceeding.



c. **Square (Regulatory) Sign:** The red and white, square regulatory signs convey regulations that the driver must follow. Signs indicating prohibitions often will have a symbol inside of a red circle with a red diagonal bar. When you see a red circle with the red diagonal bar it always means "NO."



d. **Circular (Railroad) Sign:** The yellow circular sign is designated to provide information to the driver of an impending railroad crossing.



e. **Pentagonal (School Zone) Sign:** The yellow or the new fluorescent yellow-green five-sided sign indicates the presence of a nearby school and an area in which children will be crossing traveled roads.



f. **Diamond (Warning) Sign:** The four-sided, diamond-shaped signs warn drivers of specific road conditions and dangers ahead.



g. Pennant-Shaped Sign: The yellow pennant-shaped sign is used exclusively to warn drivers of impending no-passing zones. These pennant-shaped signs are placed on the left-hand side of two-way roads to aid the driver who may be trying to pass a vehicle on the left.



h. Rectangular (Information) Sign: The white rectangular sign provides important regulations that drivers must obey such as maximum speed limits or contains useful information such as state highway markers.



3. Written Messages and Symbols: Traffic signs will employ either written messages or symbols to convey the information to the driver. Specific examples of written messages and symbols for particular types of signs to follow:

a. Regulatory Signs:



Tow Away Zone



No Parking



No Trucks



No Right Turn



No U Turn



Hospital



Narrow Bridge